

Adams House  
Liberty Avenue  
Richmond  
Wayne County  
Indiana

HABS No. IN-111

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IND,  
89-RICH,  
10-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

ADAMS HOUSE

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Location: Approximately .5 mile southeast of Liberty Avenue (Old U.S. 27), .6 mile south of Q Street, Richmond, Wayne County, Indiana.

Present Owner: Dr E. L. Ringenberg, 3451 Dorothy Lane, Richmond, Indiana.

Present Use: Vacant.

Significance: This handsome Greek Revival-style house, with unusual segmentally arched dormers, was built between ca. 1830 and 1843.

PART I. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Well-proportioned Greek Revival-style house with arched pediments and roofs on the dormers.
2. Condition of fabric: Poor. The original building is almost completely intact but there are additions on the north and northeast. The building is being restored.

B. Description of the Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Approximately 44'-4" (five-bay front) x 61'. L-shaped, one-and-a-half stories.
2. Foundations: Rough ashlar with cement parging.
3. Wall construction: Red brick in common bond.
4. Structural system, framing: Brick bearing walls with wood joists and rafters.
5. Porches, stoops: The entry has concrete steps with four risers to a concrete slab deck on a parged block foundation. The east porch has two built-up square wood columns, a concrete slab on block foundations, a wood strip soffit and a roof extended from the adjoining gables.
6. Chimneys: Two red brick, flush to the east and west walls and without caps.
7. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: The main entry has wood pilasters on each side with fluted panels, simple capitals and deep entablature above. There is an 18" reveal with molded pilasters and soffit. The single molded panel door has sidelights with a molded panel below and a muntined transom above. All wood is painted white.
- b. Windows and shutters: The windows have one-over-one-light double-hung sash, flush stone lintels, projecting wood sills, and simple trim. All wood and trim is painted white.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Gable roof with asphalt shingle covering.
- b. Cornice, eaves: The boxed cornice has a molded fascia. There is a deep entablature on the front and a molded but smaller barge board at the gable ends.
- c. Dormers: The five dormers, three on the front, one on the rear, and one in the ell, have simple squared pilasters with capitals and segmentally arched window heads, pediments, and roofs. The windows have one-over-one-light double-hung sash.

C. Description of the Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. First floor: The center hall has parlors on either side. At the end of the hall, a doorway leads to a bathroom. Behind the west parlor is a double door leading to the dining room with the kitchen behind and a porch on the east. A hatch door in the floor gives access to the basement.
- b. Second floor: The main stairway gives access to two bedrooms upstairs. Another bedroom with access from the dining room has no connection with the other two rooms.

- 2. Stairway: The open-well main stairway has two unequal flights in a U-shape, an open stringer, delicate square balusters and a round rail with a volute at the newel. A narrow enclosed stairway leads to the rear bedroom.
- 3. Flooring: Wide wood plank.
- 4. Wall and ceiling finish: Paper on plaster.

5. Doorways and doors: Symmetrically molded trim with corner blocks in the entry. Other doorways have pilaster trim with fluted panels and a deep frieze with cornice above. Doors have two molded panels. All wood is painted white.
6. Mechanical equipment: No heating system.

D. Site:

1. General setting: The house is part of a farm complex with a number of trees in the immediate area. It is approximately half a mile from the road and is on top of a gently rolling hill.
2. Outbuildings: There is a large wooden barn to the west with several other farm structures nearby.

Prepared by: Mort Karp  
Project Supervisor  
August, 1974

PART II. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey in cooperation with the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana. The project was completed in the summer of 1974 under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS; and Associate Professor Mort Karp of the University of Arkansas, Project Supervisor; Architect Harry Hunderman (University of Michigan); and student assistant architects Scott Barnard (University of Pennsylvania), Mark Hall (Pennsylvania State University), and Richard Perlmutter (Yale University); and architectural historian Robert Brueggmann (University of Pennsylvania) at the HABS Field Office at Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana. Photographs were taken by HABS staff photographer Jack E. Boucher in January, 1975. The written historical and architectural data were edited by Alison K. Hoagland, HABS Historian, in December, 1984.